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NURSING IN MISSION STATIONS

WORK IN KOREA

By ESTHER L. SHIELDS

Severance Hospital, Seoul, Korea. Graduate of the Philadelphia Training School

SEVERANCE HOSPITAL is located on an elevation outside South Gate, Seoul, Korea, and this fall we begin our fourth year of work in this building. The compact, substantial brick edifice, two stories high, and accommodating forty patients, is the gift of Mr. Louis Severance, Cleveland, Ohio, to the American Presbyterian Board of Missions, and is the home of the hospital called "Cha Joong Won," in which the first American missionary to Korea, Dr. H. N. Allen, began the practice of medicine and surgery according to Western rules. The work has been kept up by doctors sent out by the Mission Board, Dr. O. R. Avison and Dr. J. W. Hirst being here now. Dr. Avison came in 1893, and is expecting to graduate a class of medical students next June. Since Dr. Hirst's coming in 1904, and taking a great deal of the care of the sick off Dr. Avison's hands, the latter has been able to prepare and have mimeographed a number of text-books, without which he had before been much hampered in teaching the students. Now a lesson is prepared, studied with the class, corrected, and one hundred copies made, each student adding the new pages to his book; so he should, by the time the book is finished, know very well what is in it. Miss Anna P. Jacobson, born in Norway, but a graduate of a training school in Portland, Maine, was the nurse sent here in 1895, and her year and a half in Korea made a deep impression upon those who knew her. She was ill for several months, dysentery, malaria, and finally abscess of the liver resulting fatally. The Mission Board was asked to send a nurse in Miss Jacobson's stead and I reached Seoul in the fall of '97 in answer to that call. Even nurses, however, were required to study the language, so the first year had practically no hospital responsibilities for me, but in October, 1898, Dr. Eva Field and I moved to the hospital compound and began our work there. Two of the older girls from our mission school came to help with the nursing, and we thought we were organizing our training school for nurses, but only about a year passed until one of the young women married, and the other went to a northern city, where she has very efficiently assisted her sister, a physician, in hospital and in other Christian work. So it was only in the autumn of 1906 that the training

school work was fairly organized and it is known as the "Severance Hospital Training School for Nurses." The medical department is called the "Severance Hospital Medical School."

The regulations for the training school are as follows:

"The work of this school shall be especially directed to fit Christian Korean women for the duties of nurses.

The pupils should be young, studious, and ambitious, and apt in learning and using the methods of the school.

The applicant should be not less than twenty years, or more than thirty. Women with husbands living cannot be admitted, except in special cases, to be decided by the Superintendent.

The probation period shall not be less than two months, and only after preliminary examinations are passed may the probationer be received as a pupil nurse. She must be able to read and write Emnoun (the Korean written character), to read and write the English alphabet and Roman numerals, and to understand arithmetic through simple fractions. A preparatory course in these subjects will be given during the period of probation to those who need it.

A three-years' course of work and study under direction of the hospital staff shall be required, aside from the period of probation; should the pupil not cover the course and pass the examination at the end of the three years, she may, other conditions being satisfactory, have her time extended at the discretion of the authorities.

If the examinations are successfully passed at the close of the three-years' course, and if her conduct has been satisfactory, the pupil shall receive her diploma, and be enrolled as a graduate nurse.

While the nurses are members of the training school, they will be provided with their uniforms, bedding and food. They must supply their own clocks or watches and thermometers, and pay for hospital property which they carelessly break, lose or destroy."

Our curriculum isn't all written out, and we have to "make haste slowly" in getting all our plans into working order, and in doing our work ideally. We *will* set *that mark* before us.

At present I have four nurses and one probationer, young Korean women. All have been married. The husbands of two died, and some of the complications in Eastern domestic life have released the other two for this service.

We are very much encouraged, now, with the progress that has been made, for none of these pupils has been here more than a year, several of them less. They might have been "much more wise" if we had been able to carry out their instruction more systematically. We

were all, last year, as a training school, pioneering and experimenting. We have had no lack of actual work and variety in our hospital wards, and the pupil nurses have necessarily done much more responsible work than would have been permitted in a long established hospital—until they had been longer in training.

To Miss Margaret Edmunds, of the Methodist Episcopal Hospital, Seoul, belongs the honor of having actually established the first training school for Korean young women, and one of her senior nurses is now taking some weeks of work in our operating room and surgical wards—besides occasionally doing other important nursing. We long for the time to come when we shall have a nice home for the nurses, when we shall have twelve or sixteen pupils in this training school, and when we shall have another graduate American or English nurse to share the privileges and responsibilities.

When I was sent out, ten years ago, the hospital work was carried on in a set of Korean buildings where the first foreign medical work was done. I remember that the first operation done in the old dispensary shocked me, after the instruction I had received regarding surgical cleanliness and the emphasis laid upon the dreadful germs at home.

The most helpful *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING* is full of what we nurses need to be taught and reminded of, and I find many suggestions which are usable right here.

A friend kindly gave me a number of copies—"back numbers," but so interesting; and I am from various sources, and personal experiences, in recognition of the needs here, having notes translated and written for a "Portfolio" for my Korean nurses.

Mrs. Robb's remarks quoted about nurses giving other women and girls health talks appealed to me very much.

One of the most interesting experiences I have had in Korea was an evening when I gave a talk to probably two hundred Korean women about the care of children. For two years I visited country churches, and held classes with the women, and, following the example of others, talks on hygiene, and the reading together of a little book for mothers were a part of the regular program.

Many of the Koreans are very desirous of learning better methods in home-keeping, and the efforts made by thousands of them are proofs of their desire for progress. We feel that it is a privilege to be here working with and for these people, and that they are as capable of doing good work as any people, when they but secure the preliminary training. Some who have had educational advantages in Europe or America have returned splendidly equipped for service.

On August 1, 1907, there was in Seoul a battle between Korean and Japanese soldiers, because the Korean soldiers refused to quietly disarm and vacate the barracks as ordered by the Japanese. The Koreans began firing about eight-thirty A.M. and the battle lasted until noon. Bullets whizzed in all directions, but chiefly toward the South Gate, which is a very short distance from our hospital. A single bomb in the barracks was fired when it could do the greatest damage. Before the firing ceased, Dr. Avison and a company of voluntary helpers wearing improvised red crosses went to the barracks, were admitted, and at once began to give "first aid" and to prepare for transferring those to the hospital who could be moved. I was away on my vacation, so had no part in the day.

Miss Edmunds and two of her nurses and other foreign and Korean friends came in to help. Twenty-seven of the wounded soldiers were brought to the hospital, on carts, and others who had been hurt were also sent in, adding forty-two cases to our wards. There were not enough beds; so the floors were utilized until the cases were taken to the operating room, where two tables were used, the Korean senior students ably assisting Dr. Avison, or doing their own surgery, and the Korean as well as one American and one English nurses and other helpers did good work. The Korean nurses in their neat uniforms quite surprised some of the observers, who expressed appreciation of the capability of both nurses and students in the emergency. Dr. Hirst came home that night in time to do several important operations.

For seven or eight days the wounded were cared for here, when both the soldiers here and those who had been taken to the Japanese Hospital were transferred to a temporary Korean Hospital. New Testaments and other books were supplied by the Tract societies, and evangelistic work was carried on among the men, most or all of whom listened intently, and eagerly read the books. They left with regret, one man saying to Miss Edmunds: "Mother, please keep me here." Others, too, had expressed their wish not to be moved, asking to go to a Christian Hospital, willing to go even to a Woman's Hospital.

The doctor and some of the students went to visit the men some days later, and found them in comfortable quarters. I think all were discharged when well enough to go to their homes.

A letter from Miss Charlotte F. Grant, of Aintab, Turkey in Asia, says: I am very glad the JOURNAL is taking up Foreign Mission work; it is very cheering to those who are in far away places to hear of the experiences of others and of the way they meet and overcome difficulties.

I wonder if any one can give us a little light on the subject of drainage and how to dispose of sewage where there is no public system of drainage. We have about two acres of land which is chiefly a white soft limestone, very absorbent. Water is one of our luxuries and does not run to waste. The sun and air do a great deal for us as germicides. The work here in Turkey is most fascinating and the opportunities **great**, not only for one's self, but in fitting the native women for the needs of the country.

A JOURNAL reader in Massachusetts offers to send her JOURNAL each month to any missionary nurse who cannot afford to subscribe for it. She has also a number of full year's numbers which she would send to any mission hospital or training school. Her address will be given to anyone wishing to accept this kind offer.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING AND THE BRITISH NURSING PRESS *

By MARY BURR

IF there were any question of the vitality of the profession of nursing, or of the progress which it has made in the past quarter of a century, I would just state this one fact. Twenty years ago there was not one professional association of nurses in the world, and not a single journal in the press solely devoted to their interests, and now there are few civilized countries where trained nurses are not associated for professional purposes, and where they do not own and control a professional organ. The subject, therefore, of the History of the Professional Nursing Press is one of such enormous importance to nurses that its place in the program of this great International Conference requires no excuse.

Order—Organization—Unity—by them alone is it possible for a class of workers to succeed, to be strong, to have liberty of speech and conscience to live decently, and withstand the almost overwhelming pressure of industrial conditions, which in the furious competition for abnormal wealth, grinds the individual to powder.

Order, organization, unity one must have. Yet none of these things are possible to the inarticulate. The vocal chords of the world are all

* Read at the International Council of Nurses, Paris, 1907.